

Message Text

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20

ACTION NEA-06

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 AID-10 DEAE-00 CIAE-00 INR-10

NSAE-00 RSC-01 NSC-10 NSCE-00 SNM-01 OMB-01 SCI-02

IO-03 JUSE-00 AGR-03 L-02 DRC-01 TRSE-00 /065 W

----- 037913

P R 150415Z FEB 74

FM AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3371

USMISSION GENEVA PRIORITY

INFO AMZMBASSY ANKARA 6677

AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

AMEMBASSY BERN

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRASILIA

AMEMBASSY BRUSSEL

AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY KABUL

AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU

AMEMBASSY KINGSTON

AMEMBASSY LAGOS

AMEMBASSY LIMA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY MEXICO

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

AMEMBASSY RANGOON

AMEMBASSY ROME

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AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE
AMEMBASSY TOKYO
AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE
AMEMBASSY WARSAW

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LIMDIS

GENEVA FOR AMBASSADOR VANCE

3.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SNAR, UN, PK

SUBJ: US VIEWS ON ITEM 9 OF CND AGENDA

REF: (A) STATE 026073

(B) ISLAMABAD 1541 (NOTAL)

(C) ISLAMABAD 1491 (NOTAL)

1. ON FEBRUARY 13 MOHAMMED YUSUF ORAKZAI, CHAIRMAN OF PAKISTAN NARCOTICS CONTROL BOARD, CONVEYED TO VISITING COUNTRY DIRECTOR CONSTABLE AND DCM THE GOP'S ENTHUSIASTIC SUPPORT FOR US POSITION ON ITEM 9 OF CND AGENDA (REFTEL A). ORAKZAI OUTLINED IN ONE-TWO-THREE ORDER ASPECTS WHICH GOP FOUND MOST APPEALING: (A) HE REFERRED TO THE ACKNOWLEDGED WORLD SHORTAGE OF LICIT OPIUM WHICH IS FORCING USG TO RELEASE AMOUNTS OF UP TO 45 PER CENT OF ITS OPIUM STOCKPILE SO AS TO MAINTAIN US INVENTORIES AT A MINIMALLY SAFE LEVEL. IF, AS GOP CONTEMPLATES, PURCHASE OF RAW OPIUM IN THE NORTHWEST FRONTIER PROVINCE (NWFP) IS MORE TIGHTLY CONTROLLED THIS SUMMER, IT LIKELY GOP WILL PURCHASE FROM THE GROWERS TONNAGE FAR IN EXCESS OF THE USUAL ANNUAL BUY OF TEN TONS OR SO FROM PAKISTAN'S ESTIMATED PRODUCTION OF 300 TONS. GOP PURCHASES COULD, HE SAID, RUN AS HIGH AS FIVE TIMES THAT OF RECENT YEARS. ORAKZAI INDICATED THAT IN SUCH EVENT HE WOULD LIKE THE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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EMBASSY TO ASSIST GOP IN ARRANGING FOR THE LICIT EXPORT TO THE US OF THE TONNAGE WHICH IS ABOVE MEDICAL REQUIREMENTS IN PAKISTAN. (B) ORAKZAI STATED THAT THE RECOMMENDED SHIFT TOWARD POPPY STRAW TO IMPROVE BOTH CONTROL AND YIELD IS MANIFESTLY RIGHT AND PROPER. PAKISTAN WOULD WELCOME US TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE TO SET UP PROGRESSING UNITS IN PAKISTAN. (C) HE DESCRIBED THE USG'S INTENTION TO DEVELOP POPPY STRINGS AND

PROCESSING TECHNIQUES AS "VERY GOOD," SAYING PAKISTAN
WOULD WELCOME ASSISTANCE IN THIS AREA TOO.

2. CONSTABLE AND DCM SPOKE OF SINGLE CONVENTION,
PAKISTAN'S AVOWED INTENTION TO BAN THE POPPY AND
DUTIFULLY CONVEYED SUBSTANCE OF PARA 11 REFTEL A.
ORAKZAI NODDED HIS HEAD IN COMPLETE AGREEMENT AS EACH
POINT MADE, SAYING "YES, BUT....". THE BUTS LARGELY
HAD TO DO WITH DOMESTIC POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC PROBLEMS
OF WHICH DEPARTMENT WELL AWARE AND IN COURSE OF THEIR
DELINEATION ORAKZAI SAID BAN EVEN IN SETTLED AREAS
WOULD "AT BEST" COME IN "THREE OR FOUR YEARS." AS TO
THE MERGED AREAS, HE SAID NARCOTICS LAW HAS NOT YET EVEN
BEEN EXTENDED THERE AND CONTROL IS VIRTUALLY NON-EXISTENT.
AS TO TRIBAL AREAS, HE SAID THAT JUST WHEN SOMETHING
MIGHT BE DONE ON POPPY CONTROL/BAN IS NOT NOW SUBJECT
TO ANY SORT OF DEFINITION.

3. COMMENT: USG AND WORLD RECOGNITION THAT THERE IS
AT PRESENT NO DEEQUATE SUBSTITUTE FOR OPIUM AND
THAT THERE IS ACTUALLY A SUBSTANTIAL WORLD SHORTAGE
OF LICIT OPIUM OBVIOUSLY SUGGESTS TO PAKISTAN THE
IDEA THAT IT NEED NOT HASTEN TO BAN THE POPPY. ON
THE CONTRARY, GOP NOW SEEMS TO FEEL IT CAN MOVE TO
BECOME A LEGAL EXPORTER OF OPIUM. THIS IS NOT THE
FIRST TIME THIS IDEA HAS OCCURRED TO THE GOP. OUR
BRIEF WHICH MAY SUGGEST TO SOME THAT THOSE WHO
CAME FIRST IN THE LICIT MARKET HAVE SOMETHING AKIN
TO PROPRIETARY RIGHTS OBVIOUSLY HAS MANY CHINKS
AND IS NOT LIKELY TO BE PERSUASIVE HERE, PARTICULARLY
WITH INDIA BEING MAJOR EXPORTER. WE WILL CONTINUE TO
PRESS FOR BAN IN SETTLED AREAS OF NWFP BUT EVEN MORE
THAN IN PAST IT APPEARS THAT FIRST ORDER OF PRIORITY
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IS CONTROL AND ENFORCEMENT WHICH IN PAKISTAN ARE
CURRENTLY ONLY OF MOST NOMINAL KIND.
BYROADE

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Message Attributes

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